

Haga et al. -- Appln. No. 10/069,541

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-99: canceled

Claim 100 (Previously presented): An isolated gene which encodes a protein comprising an amino acid sequence represented by Seq. ID No. 6.

Claim 101 (Canceled)

Claim 102 (Previously presented): Substantially purified human DNA comprising a base sequence represented by Seq. ID No. 5 or its full length complement.

Claim 103. (Currently amended): Substantially purified human DNA ~~encoding a protein~~ that hybridizes with DNA constituting the gene according to claim 102 under stringent conditions (50% formamido, 5 X SSPE, 5X Denhardt's solution, 0.5% SDS, 100 ug/ml salmon sperm DNA 42°C), and washing under high stringency conditions (0.1 X SSPE, 0.1% SDS, 65°C), and encodes a protein that has high affinity choline transporter activity.

Claim 104 (Canceled)

Claim 105 (Previously presented): An isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence represented by Seq. ID No. 6.

Claim 106 (Canceled)

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Claim 107 (Previously presented): A fusion protein wherein the protein according to claim 105 and a marker protein and/or peptide tag are bound together.

Claim 108 (Canceled)

Claim 109 (Currently amended): ~~The~~ An isolated host cell comprising an expression system capable of expressing the protein according to claim 105.

Claim 110 (Currently amended): A method of preparing a cell having human-derived high-affinity choline transporter activity comprising introducing *in vitro* the DNA or complement ~~thereof~~ according to claim 102 into a cell that lacks a fully functional gene which encodes a protein having high-affinity choline transporter activity.

Claim 111 (Currently amended): A method of preparing a cell having high-affinity choline transporter activity comprising introducing *in vitro* the DNA or complement ~~thereof~~ according to claim 102 into a cell that lacks a fully functional gene which encodes a protein having high-affinity choline transporter activity, wherein the resulting cell has the DNA or complement thereof integrated with the DNA in its chromosome, and stably shows high-affinity choline transporter activity.

Claim 112 (Previously presented): An isolated cell having high-affinity choline transporter activity being obtained by the method according to claim 111.